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SUBJECT: LATVIA WILL ABSTAIN ON GOLDSTONE RESOLUTION

REF: STATE 015722

(SBU) MFA Head of Human Rights Division Inese Freimane-Deksne assured us February 22 that Latvia's position on Goldstone had not changed. Consistent with Latvia's position at the UNGA in 2009, the delegation would be instructed to abstain on the current Palestinian text, she told us in response to reftel demarche. While there was always a chance that EU discussions in New York could create a consensus for a different vote, she thought it far more likely that the EU would remain divided on the report. Latvia had two principles to defend: that further discussion on Goldstone should be limited to the Human Rights Council, and that nothing done with regard to Goldstone should obstruct peace talks. Given those principles, she had every expectation that Latvia would not change its vote from an abstention.
GARBER